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Around the Nation

L.A. Probes 2d Panther Shooting

LOS ANGELES — Police tried to determine yesterday whether the wounding of a female Black Panther, found in an abandoned building with a bullet through her temple, was connected with the feud ripping the militant group.

The killing of another woman has already been attributed to the feud, which pits followers of party founder Huey P. Newton against those of exiled leader Eldridge Cleaver, according to police.

Marcia Blake, 25, was reported in "very critical condition" at County-USC Medical Center. Officers said she was too incoherent to shed any light on the shooting.

Police were investigating to determine whether the shooting of Miss Blake, a former Panthers communications director, was related to the killing on Nov. 12 of Saundra Pratt, 23, wife of the former head of the Los Angeles Black Panthers. Both women were reportedly members of the Cleaver faction.